

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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FOR SENATOR MC GOVERN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: CODEL MC GOVERN

REF: TEL AVIV 2027

1. FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED FOR SENATOR MC GOVERN.

2. GVN HAS RELINQUISHED CONTROL OF MR 1 AND MOST OF MR 2 TO COMMUNISTS. MILITARY SITUATION IN MR 3 IS RELATIVELY QUIET AT PRESENT. COMMUNIST INITIATED ACTIVITY IN MR 4 HAS STEPPED UP WITH SHELLING ATTACKS ON TEN DISTRICT TOWNS. COMMUNIST GUNNERS ALSO SHELLED A SAIGON SUBURB FOR FIRST TIME SINCE BEGINNING OF NVN MARCH OFFENSIVE.

3. GVN UNABLE TO EVACUATE DANANG AND OTHER COASTAL

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ENCLAVES BEFORE COMMUNIST FORCES OCCUPIED THEM. GVN, US

AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS CONTRIBUTED SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT TO MOVE PEOPLE OUT OF THREATENED AREAS UP TO LAST MINUTE. ONLY AN ESTIMATED 75,000 OF 1.5 MILLION REFUGEES AND RESIDENTS IN DANANG WERE ABLE TO BE EVACUATED.

4. ALL REPORTS INDICATE THAT COMMUNIST FORCES REPEATEDLY ATTACKED REFUGEE COLUMNS IN MR 2 MOVING FROM THE CENTRAL

HIGHLANDS TO THE COAST AND BETWEEN HUE AND DANANG IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT THE DEPARTURE OF MASSIVE NUMBERS OF CIVILIANS. COMMUNIST FORCES ALSO BEGAN SHELLING ATTACKS ON DANNAG IN EFFORT TO PREVENT EVACUATION EFFORTS FROM CONTINUING.

5. NEW REFUGEES REGISTERED BY THE GVN MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE NUMBER APPROXIMATELY 315,000 IN MR 3 AND MR 4. USAID ESTIMATES THIS TOTAL TO BE CONSERVATIVE BEING BASED ON ACTUAL VISITS TO LOCATIONS WHERE REFUGEES BEING ACCOMMODATED. LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES STILL MOVING IN PRIVATE FISHING VESSELS, COASTAL CRAFT AND OVERLAND TOWARD SAIGON. IT IS PROBABLE THAT ONE-HALF MILLION NEW REFUGEES STILL IN GVN CONTROLLED TERRITORY.

6. THERE ARE CURRENTLY TWO MAJOR STAGING AREAS WHERE REFUGEES LOCATED: (1) PHU QUOC ISLAND (CURRENTLY BEING EQUIPPED TO HANDLE APPROXIMATELY 100,000 REFUGEES) AND (2) THE GENERAL VICINITY OF SAIGON AND SURROUNDING PROVINCES. THE PRESENT GVN POLICY IS TO DISCOURAGE REFUGEES TRYING TO ENTER THE METROPOLITAN AREAS OF SAIGON AND DIRECT THEM TO ADJACENT TEMPORARY LOCATIONS IN BINH DUONG AND BIEN HOA PROVINCES. SOME REFUGEES ARE ALSO BEING ASSISTED IN VUNG TAU AND CAN THO. RELIEF SUPPLIES, MEDICINE AND FOOD ARE BEING MOBILIZED. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON REFUGEE CONDITIONS IN COMMUNIST-OCCUPIED TERRITORY.

7. THE FOREIGN AID APPROPRIATIONS ACT PROVIDES APPROXIMATELY DOLS 50 MILLION FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, OF WHICH DOLS 41 MILLION IS SPECIFICALLY BUDGETED FOR REFUGEE RELIEF PURPOSES. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPROXIMATELY DOLS 26 MILLION HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE DURING THE PAST TEN DAYS, BRINGING TOTAL AMOUNTS PROGRAMMED THUS FAR THIS FISCAL YEAR TO APPROXIMATELY DOLS 28 MILLION. COMMITMENTS IN THE LAST TEN DAYS HAVE BEEN FOR INITIAL AIRCRAFT/SEALIFT OPERATIONS AND IMMEDIATE RELIEF REQUIREMENTS IDENTIFIED BY THE GVN AND US MISSION. IN ADDITION, DOLS 2 MILLION HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE APRIL 2 FOR CHILD CARE RELIEF REQUIREMENTS.

THE US MISSION HAS ALSO MADE AN IMMEDIATE OBLIGATION OF DOLS 1.8 MILLION FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES.

8. THE INTERAGENCY STAFF COMMITTEE (ISC) MET ON MARCH 28 AND APPROVED A 100,000-TON P.L. 480 TITLE II EMERGENCY RICE GRANT FOR THE GVN. THE APPROVAL AUTHORITY ALLOWS THE GVN TO BORROW RICE CURRENTLY IN

VIETNAM FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION TO REFUGEE FEEDING PROGRAMS. THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IS IN THE PROCESS OF COMPLETING ITS PLANS TO PROCURE 100,000 TONS OF RICE WITH FIRST SHIPMENT SCHEDULED FROM U.S. PORTS IN LATE MAY 1975. IN ADDITION, ISC ALSO APPROVED TITLE II HIGH PROTEIN FOOD SUPPLEMENT OF 13,500 TONS SOME OF WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN DIVERTED AND HAS ARRIVED IN SAIGON.

9. DOD ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM AID HAS MOBILIZED AN AIR-LIFT OF APPROXIMATELY 1,400 VIETNAMESE ORPHANS WHO WERE IN LEGAL CUSTODY OF US LICENSED ADOPTION AGENCIES AND WHO WERE ALREADY PLACED FOR ADOPTION IN THE US. THIS ACTION WAS UNDERTAKEN TO RELIEVE THE FEARS OF THOSE FAMILIES AND TO REMOVE THESE CHILDREN FROM SAIGON SO THAT WELFARE STAFFS COULD CONCENTRATE ON OTHER URGENT NEEDS. AS OF 0600 APRIL 8, A TOTAL OF 1,348 ORPHANS HAVE DEPARTED SAIGON VIA MAC OR COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT. KISSINGER

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